

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 37912 301353Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----040058 301354Z /44

R 311339Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3708

S E C R E T PARIS 37912

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, SF, FR, RE
SUBJECT: AIR SAMPLING MISSIONS

REF: A. STATE 242584, B. STATE 242483, C. PARIS 30604

1. MFA DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR PAGNIEZ CALLED IN
EMBOFF DECEMBER 28 TO REPLY TO REQUEST (REFTELS A AND B)
WHICH WE HAD TRANSMITTED OCTOBER 13 (REFTEL C).

2. ISSUE, PAGNIEZ SAID, HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED
BY QUAI IN CONJUNCTION WITH FRENCH EXPERTS IN THIS
FIELD. FRENCH CONCLUDED THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE
ADEQUATE MEANS OF VERIFYING AND ANALYZING NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS, AND THAT IT WILL, THEREFORE, NOT BE
NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE AMERICAN PLANES AND EQUIPMENT
INTO LA REUNION FOR THIS PURPOSE, EVEN ON REQUESTED
TEMPORARY BASIS. FACT THAT PRESENCE OF US PLANES
COULD NOT BE KEPT SECRET EASILY AND COULD THEREFORE
POSE "POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOF", PAGNIEZ ADDED, WAS
AN ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION.

3. WHILE FRENCH NOT ABLE TO ACCEDE TO US REQUEST,
PAGNIEZ STRESSED THAT GOF WAS NEVERTHELESS INTERESTED
IN REMAINING IN TOUCH WITH US ON THIS QUESTION. THUS,
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SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 37912 301353Z

IF US HAD ANY INDICATIONS THAT A SOUTH AFRICAN TEST
MIGHT BE IMMINENT, HE HOPED WE WOULD COMMUNICATE THIS
TO GOF SO THAT FRENCH COULD PREPARE AND LAUNCH NECES-
SARY VERIFICATION MISSIONS. HE SKIRTED QUESTION
HOW CLOSE US-FRENCH COOPERATION IN SUCH SITUATION
MIGHT BE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE DECISION MAY REFLECT FRENCH
MILITARY DESIRE TO SHOW THAT IT CAN DO THE JOB, REAL
REASON MORE LIKELY RELATED TO THE FACT THAT VETERAN
GAULLIST FORMER PRIME MINISTER MICHEL DEBRE NOW HOLDS
THE ASSEMBLY SEAT FROM LA REUNION. GOF UNDOUBTEDLY
SHIED AWAY FROM RISK OF IRRITATING ONE OF FRANCE'S
MOST NATIONALIST POLITICIANS BY INTRODUCING US PLANES,
IF ONLY TEMPORARILY, ON HIS HOME TURF.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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